

The California Water Plan ►►

For almost 60 years, the California Water Plan (Water Plan) has served as the long-term strategic plan for informing and guiding the sound management and development of water resources in the state. With updates every five years, this plan reaffirms the State’s commitment to integrated water management. It recognizes and reflects these five things every Californian should know:

- **Water is the Essence of Life for California.**
Every living thing in the state, as well as our economy, depends on reliable, clean water to thrive. There are greater demands for water in our state than ever before.
- **California’s Complex Water System is in Crisis.**
Our interconnected system of water resources — natural and human made — is severely threatened on many fronts, with significant risks to our health, safety, economic well-being, and quality of life.
- **A Diverse Portfolio Approach is Required.**
The complexity of our water resources systems and the associated risks demand a diverse set of actions and investment strategies. There is no silver bullet.
- **Solutions Require Integration, Alignment, and Investment.**
Commitment to the integrated water management approach, alignment toward a common vision, and stable financing are essential to ensure future resiliency — the ability to adapt to change.
- **We All Have a Role to Play in Securing Our Future.**
Decision-makers, resource agencies, water resource managers, interest groups, and water users at the State, federal, tribal, and local levels need to actively engage in the solutions.



►► Promotes Integrated Water Management

Integrated Water Management Delivers Multiple Benefits

Integrated water management is a comprehensive and collaborative approach for managing water to concurrently achieve social, environmental, and economic objectives. In the Water Plan, these objectives are focused toward improving public safety, fostering environmental stewardship, and supporting economic stability. This integrated approach delivers higher value for investments by considering all interests, providing multiple benefits, and working across jurisdictional boundaries at the appropriate geographic scale. Examples of multiple benefits include improved water quality, better flood management, restored and enhanced ecosystems, and more reliable water supplies.

Update 2013 Helps Implement the Governor’s Water Action Plan

Update 2013 is a key resource for implementing the Governor’s Water Action Plan in a manner aligned with the State’s long-term, strategic vision for water. The Action Plan describes 10 essential actions that represent the Brown Administration’s priorities for the next five years (represented under “Investment Priorities” in the figure below). The Action Plan is informed by the more comprehensive suite of recommended strategies and actions in Update 2013.

Indicators are Effective Tools for Evaluating Resource Sustainability

Update 2013 proposes the use of sustainability indicators to evaluate progress and return on State investments. It also promotes analytical tools to (1) better integrate and align with other planning activities, (2) seek consensus on information needed to make good decisions, (3) build a common understanding of the water management system, and (4) improve transparency of Water Plan information. The Water Plan uses the collaborative approach to evaluate several resource management strategies that increase resilience in Central Valley water management (see pages 26-28).



A Resource for Implementing the Governor's Water Action Plan

This guide links two key State government plans: the Governor's Water Action Plan (Five-Year Plan) and the more long-term Update 2013. Linkages are shown between implementation actions in Update 2013 that advance one or more of the Governor's 10 priorities in the Five-Year Plan. The actions related to the 17 objectives in Update 2013 represent the alignment of nearly 40 State agency plans and are well supported by the State's diverse stakeholder groups and opinion leaders.

Use this table to access more than 300 specific actions in Update 2013. The Update 2013 actions are presented topically by the 17 objectives and related resource management strategies (RMSs) listed in the table. The specific actions behind the objectives and RMSs can be accessed in Volume 1, Chapter 8, "Roadmap for Action," and Volume 3, *Resource Management Strategies*, respectively.

| Water Action Plan's 10 Essential Actions | Make conservation a California way of life | Invest in integrated water management and increase regional self-reliance | Achieve the coequal goals for the Delta | Protect and restore important ecosystems | Manage and prepare for dry periods | Expand water storage capacity | Provide safe drinking water and secure wastewater systems to all communities | Increase flood protection | Improve operational and regulatory efficiency | Identify sustainable and integrated financing opportunities |
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| How the 10 Essential Actions Are Advanced in Update 2013 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Update 2013 Objectives (Volume 1, Chapter 8) | #2 – Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently | #1 – Strengthen Integrated Regional Water Management Planning #10 – Improve Data, Analysis, and Decision-Support Tools #17 – Improve Integrated Water Management Finance Strategy and Investments | #7 – Manage the Delta to Achieve the Coequal Goals for California | #4 – Protect and Restore Surface Water and Groundwater Quality #5 – Practice Environmental Stewardship #9 – Reduce the Carbon Footprint of Water Systems and Water Uses #14 – Public Access to Waterways, Lakes, and Beaches | #2 – Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently #3 – Expand Conjunctive Management of Multiple Supplies #7 – Manage the Delta to Achieve the Coequal Goals for California #8 – Prepare Prevention, Response, and Recovery Plans | #3 – Expand Conjunctive Management of Multiple Supplies (includes groundwater and surface storage) | #4 – Protect and Restore Surface Water and Groundwater Quality #12 – Strengthen Tribal/State relations and Natural Resources Management #13 – Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits | #6 – Improve Flood Management Using an Integrated Water Management Approach | #3 – Expand Conjunctive Management of Multiple Supplies #16 – Strengthen Alignment of Government Processes and Tools | #17 – Improve Integrated Water Management Finance Strategy and Investments |
| Resource Management Strategies (Volume 3) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ag Water Use Efficiency• Urban Water Use Efficiency• Recycled Municipal Water• Outreach and Engagement• Economic Incentives• Water and Culture | All 30+ RMSs can enhance regional self-reliance, depending on where they are implemented and how the benefits are allocated. | All 30+ RMSs have the potential to help meet Delta coequal goals, depending on where they are implemented and how the benefits are allocated. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Six RMSs involve water quality• Ag Lands Stewardship• Ecosystem Restoration• Forest Mgmt.• Land Use Planning and Mgmt.• Recharge Area Protection• Sediment Mgmt.• Watershed Mgmt.• Water and Culture | (Partial list) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ag Water Use Efficiency• Urban Water Use Efficiency• Recycled Municipal Water• Conjunctive Mgmt. of Surface and Groundwater• CALFED/Local/Regional Surface Storage | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conjunctive Mgmt. of Surface and Groundwater• CALFED Surface Storage• Local/Regional Surface Storage• System Reoperation | Nearly all 30+ RMSs can help provide safe water and wastewater to all communities, depending on where they are implemented and how the benefits are allocated. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flood Management• Land Use Planning and Management• Sediment Management• Watershed Management• Urban Stormwater Runoff Management• Forest Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conveyance Delta• Conveyance Regional/Local• System Reoperation• Water Transfers | |
| Cross-Cutting Objectives (Volume 1, Chapter 8) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• #10 – Improve Data, Analysis, and Decision-Support Tools• #11 – Invest in Water Technology and Science• #12 – Strengthen Tribal/State Relations and Natural Resources Management• #13 – Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits• #15 – Strengthen Alignment of Land Use Planning and Integrated Water Management• #16 – Strengthen Alignment of Government Processes and Tools• #17 – Improve Integrated Water Management Finance Strategy and Investments | | | | | | | | | |